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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Mitsuhiro KASAHARAOdt Pak

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

Technology Center 2600

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby calls the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

European Patent Application No. EP 0 893 916 A2, published January 27, 1999;

French Patent Publication No. 2 740 253, published April 25, 1997; and

ITEJ Technical Report, ISSN 0386-4227, published January 19, 1995, along with a partial English translation.

Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner consider and cite these documents and the enclosed translation. Copies of the above-noted patents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

P19962.A01

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted, Mitsuhiro-KASAHARA et al.

Bruce H. Bernstein Reg. No. 29,027

December 11, 2000 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1941 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191